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Copy No. 67 of 77

USIB-D-46.2/27

20 September 1973

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Federal Mapping Task Force Report

REFERENCE : USIB-D-46.2/26, 18 September 1973,  
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1. In restricted session at the 20 September USIB meeting, with the Deputy Director, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) in attendance, the Chairman asked Dr. Proctor to comment on the draft memorandum to the Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget. Dr. Proctor advised that this item was placed on the agenda to inform USIB Principals of the DCI's position on the proposal to use satellite reconnaissance photography as a national cartographic data base for unclassified map production on the U.S. The Board Principals were invited to comment on the draft.

2. Mr. Colby asked [redacted] if there were any significant differences which might emerge in the Sec Def and D/NRO responses which were also requested by OMB. [redacted] distributed a suggested substitute paragraph 7 to the draft memorandum which was adopted with the addition of a new sentence proposed by the Acting CIA Member.

3. [redacted] indicated that he had no particular problems with the draft response, but stressed that use of NRP systems for domestic mapping probably would present operational and security problems. He said, if required, that the NRO would be able to make appropriate adjustments to best utilize its resources. [redacted]

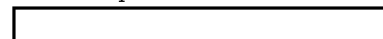
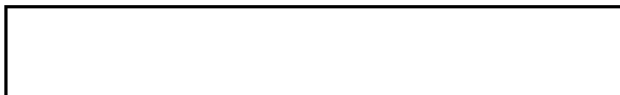
NRO review(s) completed.

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4. [ ] asked if there were any relationship between the ERTS program and the federal mapping proposal, noting that there was a memorandum on the ERTS program from [ ] of NASA to Secretary [ ]. Dr. Proctor commented that [ ] proposal involved new efforts regarding coverage of agricultural targets in a number of countries and had no direct relationship to the Federal Mapping Task Force Report.

5. In the discussion which followed a number of questions were raised regarding present and future relationships between the intelligence satellite program and the broadened new requirements of the civil agencies.

6. After additional comments, the Chairman said that he would forward the memorandum as amended to the Associate Director, Office of Management and Budget.\*



Executive Secretary

\*A copy of this memorandum as forwarded is attached hereto.

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

21 SEP 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Director  
Office of Management and Budget

SUBJECT: Federal Mapping Task Force Report

1. This memorandum responds to your 21 August 1973 request for my views on the Federal Mapping Task Force Report. My comments are limited to the proposed use of satellite reconnaissance photography as a national cartographic data base for unclassified map production on the U.S.

2. I recognize the potential value of satellite photography to meet needs of the various civil agencies, and will certainly do all I can to assist you in this effort within the statutory limitations placed on CIA with respect to involvement in domestic affairs and activities and my responsibilities for the protection of intelligence sources and methods. As you know, I have already approved access by personnel of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency to classified satellite imagery of the U.S. which is acquired incidental to our primary mission of photo coverage of foreign areas. Representatives of my Office of Security and the Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX) are meeting regularly with representatives of the civil agencies to help them use satellite photography within security guidelines and to assist in sanitizing T-KH material. The U.S. Geological Survey is in the process of revising the U.S. topographic map series based on information derived from T-KH photography, and other civil agencies are currently preparing similar programs. It should be noted that the maps or materials resulting from this arrangement are of such a nature that they can be issued on an unclassified basis without attribution to satellite photography.

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3. The thrust of the recommendations of the Report suggest a greatly broadened civil applications program and I am sympathetic with efforts to find means to economize on national expenditures related to U.S. mapping and survey. However, in light of my responsibilities assigned by both statute and Presidential directive, I must ensure that the implementation of any of its proposals does not interfere with the national intelligence mission. Because the Report's recommendations are many and are destined to have broad impact, I feel that they should be given careful deliberation, and I prefer at this time to comment on the report in a general manner, rather than addressing each specific recommendation.

4. I have two areas of concern relative to the Report. The first relates to the security and viability of the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP). The other is the ability of the NRP to meet the broadened requirements of the civil agencies while at the same time continuing to fulfill the requirements of the U.S. intelligence community.

5. On the matter of security, there is a substantial policy question involved in the declassification of satellite reconnaissance photography, particularly in the form of orthophoto maps as suggested in the study. As you know, I am in the process of seeking Presidential authorization to remove the extraordinary security protection of the [redacted] Control System and place at the SECRET level the fact of photo satellite reconnaissance as well as much of the information and prints from such coverage. Even at the classified level within the intelligence community, the implementation of these decontrol actions poses many problems, the study of which is currently underway.

6. Declassification would pose even greater problems, particularly from the point of view of source attribution, given the proscription against declassifying the fact of satellite reconnaissance. Any attempt to attribute the source of this photography to other than "satellites" could expose the Government to charges of misrepresentation.

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Attachment  
USIB-D-46.2/27

7. With regard to my second area of concern, based upon experience gained in dealing with civil agencies' needs to date, it would appear that the added civil agency photographic requirements suggested in the Report would not have a disabling effect on the ability of the NRP to carry out its intelligence mission, assuming the current launch rate and favorable mission success.

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[REDACTED] Under these circumstances, the ability to satisfy the requirements of civil agencies may be limited due to the criticality of intelligence and DoD mapping, and in the event of a failure, the ability to meet these civil requirements would be extremely limited.

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8. With these concerns in mind, I am prepared to move ahead to develop specifics of a plan which will provide for the maximum possible degree of support to the civil agency programs and at the same time provide the necessary protection of intelligence sources. I am asking the Chairman, COMIREX, to act as my executive agent and to work with your designated representative on further exploration of the feasibilities of implementation.

~~/s/ W. E. Colby~~

W. E. Colby

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